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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/728,095	12/01/2000	Dario de Judicibus	GB920000002US1	4536
7590	10/27/2003		EXAMINER	MAHMOUDI, HASSAN
Derek S. Jennings IBM Corporation, I.P. Law Dept. T. J. Watson Research Center P.O. Box 218 Yorktown Heights, NY 10598			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2175	
DATE MAILED: 10/27/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/728,095	JUDICIBUS, DARIO DE 47
Examiner	Art Unit	
Tony Mahmoudi	2175	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121. 

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 25-August-2003 has been entered.

Remarks

2. In response to communications filed on 25-August-2003, claims 1-17 are pending in the application.

Specification

3. The arrangement of the disclosed application does not conform with 37 CFR 1.77(b).
Section headings appear in lowercase and are underlined throughout the disclosed specifications. Section headings should appear in **UPPERCASE** and should not be underlined and/or **boldfaced**. Appropriate corrections are required according to the guidelines provided below:

4. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knutson et al (U.S. patent No. 5,870,746) in view of Kondo et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,519,865.)

As to claim 1, Knutson et al teaches a system adapted to cooperate with a data engine (see Abstract, where “data engine” is read on “database”) which is responsive to a query (see column 6, lines 63-66), comprising at least one conditional attribute (see column 16, lines 38-45) and at least one display attribute (see column 3, line 54 through column 4, line 54), to produce an associated report comprising at least one object (see column 16, lines 47-54), the at least one object comprising the at least one displayed attribute (see column 18, lines 29-39), the system comprising:

first means for rendering the at least one object from a report (see column 2, lines 20-25, and see column 18, lines 16-22, where “object from a report” is read on “segment”, and see lines 32-37);

the first means, responsive to user interaction with the rendered report (see column 6, lines 56-62), for selecting one of the at least one displayed attribute (see column 6, lines 39-62);

second means for rendering the at least one conditional attribute for a query (see column 16, lines 38-54);

the second means, responsive to user interaction with the at least one rendered conditional attribute (see column 17, lines 8-11), for selecting one of the at least one conditional attribute (see column 27, lines 39-42, where “conditional attribute” is read on “conditional operator choices”); and

means, responsive to the at least one conditional and displayed attributes, for generating a subsequent query (see column 64, lines 44-65.)

Knutson et al does not teach:

causing the one of the at least one displayed attribute to change to respective the at least one conditional attribute; and

causing the one of the at least one conditional attribute to change to respective the at least one displayed attribute.

Kondo et al teaches a system for retrieving and classifying data (see Abstract), in which he teaches: causing the one of the at least one displayed attribute to change to respective the at least one conditional attribute (see column 6, lines 12-33); and causing the one of the at least one conditional attribute to change to respective the at least one displayed attribute (see column 2, lines 34-48.)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Knutson et al to include causing the one of the at least one displayed attribute to change to respective the at least one conditional attribute;

and causing the one of the at least one conditional attribute to change to respective the at least one displayed attribute.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Knutson et al by the teachings of Kondo et al, because causing the one of the at least one displayed attribute to change to respective the at least one conditional attribute; and causing the one of the at least one conditional attribute to change to respective the at least one displayed attribute, would enable the system to allow the user to modify retrieval results from the current display as well as modifying the display format based on conditions set in the query. This results in “suppressing missing of data and decreases the number of trials and error times for reducing the time and labor required for retrievals”, as taught by Kondo et al (see column 2, lines 31-33.)

As to claim 2, Knutson et al as modified teaches wherein the data engine is a database (see Knutson et al, Abstract, and see column 2, lines 20-28) and the query is an SQL query (see Knutson et al, column 6, lines 35-36, also see column 7, lines 11-15.)

As to claim 3, Knutson et al as modified teaches wherein the data engine is a simulation tool (see Abstract, where “data engine” is read on “database”, and see column 6, lines 63-66, where “dimensional queries for retrieving data from data warehouse” is taught. As indicated by the applicant in the BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION section, “simulation engines can be thought of as operating in multi-dimensional space and queries on such engines are

often phrased in the form “show me attributes A, B and C when attribute D fulfils conditions x and attribute E fulfils condition y.”)

As to claim 4, Knutson et al as modified teaches wherein the first and second selecting means comprise respective means for navigating through the at least one attribute to select a single conditional or displayed attribute to be changed (see Knutson et al, column 6, lines 56-62, and see column 19, lines 16-17.)

As to claim 5, Knutson et al as modified teaches the system comprising: means, responsive to user interaction with a selected conditional attribute, for determining a value of the selected conditional attribute (see Knutson et al, column 5, lines 32-39) to be used as a condition in the subsequent query (see Knutson et al, column 13, lines 27-36.)

As to claim 6, Knutson et al as modified teaches wherein the value comprises a complex expression (see Knutson et al, column 3, lines 58-65, where “complex expression” is read on “expression that restricts the value”, and see column 13, line 59 through column 14, line 13, where “complex expressions” is read on “compound requests”.)

As to claim 7, Knutson et al as modified teaches wherein the determining means is responsive to user interaction (see Knutson et al, column 2, lines 50-51) to determine an adjusted value of the selected attribute's value as the condition (see Knutson et al, column 16, lines 1-8.)

As to claim 8, Knutson et al as modified teaches wherein the first navigation means is responsive to user interaction (see Knutson et al, column 2, lines 50-51) to cause the selected displayed attribute to change to a conditional attribute (see Kondo et al, column 6, lines 12-33) and the second navigation means is responsive to user interaction (see Knutson et al, column 2, lines 50-51) to cause the selected conditional attribute to change to a displayed attribute (see Kondo et al, column 2, lines 34-48.)

As to claim 9, Knutson et al as modified teaches wherein the first and second selecting means are responsive to user interaction (see Knutson et al, column 2, lines 50-51) to cause all conditional attributes to change to displayed attributes (see Kondo et al, column 2, lines 34-48) and to cause all displayed attributes to change to conditional attributes (see Kondo et al, column 6, lines 12-33.)

As to claim 10, Knutson et al as modified teaches wherein the first rendering means is adapted to initially display all objects from a report associated with a query (see Knutson et al, column 11, lines 12-19.)

As to claim 11, Knutson et al as modified teaches wherein the first rendering means is adapted to display the objects in a table (see Knutson et al, figure 6, and see column 11, lines 20-22.)

As to claim 12, Knutson et al as modified teaches wherein the first rendering means is adapted to display the objects isometrically (see Knutson et al, column 6, line 63 through column 7, line 2, where “dimensional queries for display format” is taught.)

As to claim 13, Knutson et al as modified teaches wherein the second rendering means is adapted to display the attributes isometrically (see Knutson et al, column 6, line 63 through column 7, line 2, where “dimensional queries for display format” is taught.)

As to claim 14, Knutson et al as modified teaches the system comprising means for receiving user input (see Knutson et al, column 25, lines 50-51) corresponding to at least a portion of a first query (see Knutson et al, column 36, lines 46-50.)

As to claim 15, Knutson et al as modified teaches wherein the receiving means (see Knutson et al, column 15, lines 48-52) comprises one of a natural language interface, a text entry field or a query-by-example analyzer (see Knutson et al, column 6, lines 11-15, and see column 16, lines 65-67.)

As to claim 16, Knutson et al teaches a method adapted to be operable with a data engine (see Abstract, where “data engine” is read on “database”) which is responsive to a query (see column 6, lines 63-66), comprising at least one conditional attribute (see column 16, lines 38-45) and at least one display attribute (see column 3, line 54 through column 4, line 54), to produce an associated report comprising one or more objects (see column 16, lines 47-54), the at least one object comprising the at least one displayed attribute (see column 18, lines 29-39), the method comprising:

rendering the at least one object from a report (see column 2, lines 20-25, and see column 18, lines 16-22, where “object from a report” is read on “segment”, and see lines 32-37);

responsive to user interaction with the rendered report (see column 6, lines 56-62), selecting one of the at least one displayed attribute (see column 6, lines 39-62);

rendering the at least one conditional attribute for a query (see column 16, lines 38-54);

responsive to user interaction with the at least one rendered conditional attribute (see column 17, lines 8-11), selecting one of the at least one conditional attribute (see column 27, lines 39-42, where “conditional attribute” is read on “conditional operator choices”); and responsive to the at least one conditional and displayed attributes, generating a subsequent query (see column 64, lines 44-65.)

For the teachings of: causing the one of the at least one displayed attribute to change to respective the at least one conditional attribute; and causing the one of the at least one conditional attribute to change to respective the at least one displayed attribute, the applicant is kindly directed to the remarks and discussions made in claim 1 above.

As to claim 17, Knutson et al as modified teaches a computer program product comprising computer program code stored on a computer readable storage medium (see Knutson et al, column 2, lines 20-37, and see column 7, lines 38-52) for, when executed on a computing device, allowing a user to refine a query, the program code comprising the system of claim 1 (the applicant is kindly directed to remarks and discussions made in claim 1 above.)

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed on 25-August-2003 with respect to the rejected independent claims 1 and 16 in view of the cited references have been fully considered but they are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony Mahmudi whose telephone number is (703) 305-4887. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 08:00 am to 04:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at (703) 305-3830.

tm

October 15, 2003



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